(c) the amount of edible oil imported during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Yes Madam, the gap between demand and availability of edible oils from indigenous sources is estimated at around 7 lakh MTs.

(c) The edible oils imported by STC during the last three financial years and till date are as under:—

Year	Quantity (lakh MT)
1988-89	10·89
1989-90	2·96
1990-91	5·38
1991-92 (Upto 18-11-1991)	0·30

Mobile Fair Price Shops

696. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to operate mobile Fair Price Shops in the inaccessible areas of the country;

(b) if so, the states where such Fair Price Shops are being operated;

(c) whether any Fair Price Shop has been set up in the tribal areas in Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details of the areas where such shops are being operated in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Central Government have since 1985-86, been operating a Plan Scheme for providing Financial Assistance to States/UTs for purchasing vans to be operated as mobile Fair Price Shops in inaccessible areas etc. of the country. Assistance under this scheme has so far been availed of by 17 State Governments/UT Administrations *viz* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chandigarh, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d). As many as 51 mobile Fair Price Shops are being operated by the Orissa State Civil Supplies Corporation in Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP) areas of the State, covering 21 Project areas, located in 9 districts.

697. [*Transferred to the 6th December*, 1991]

The quality of food article supplied through Public Distribution System

698. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to improve the quality of food articles, supplied through Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): The steps taken to provide proper quality of food articles through the Public Distribution System (PDS) include:

Foodgrains: Food Corporation of India (FCI) issues to State Governments/their agencies, foodgrains confirming to PFA requirements. Facility is provided to the recipient agency to check thequality of foodgrains issued by FCI. Generally, sealed samples are drawn and one sample is given to the recipient authority for reference purpose.

Levy Sugar: The quality of levy sugar being supplied to the States/UTs for distribution under PDs is of ISS Grade. As and when a complaint regarding the quality of sugar is received, the same is looked into for remedial action.